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Latium, not an island); the Land of the Shades=N. W. Sardinia (B=L. Lucrinus); the Sirens=Licosa with Ischia della Chitarra, near Paestum (B=Galli Is.); the Wandering Island=Lipari Islands including Stromboli (B=Salina of the Lipari Islands); Charybdis and Scylla=near Straits of Messina; The Harbor of the Sun=near Taormina-Giardini (B=near Messina-Naxos); Calypso's Island=Rock of Gibraltar (B=Perijil Islands opposite Gibraltar); Scheria=Ischia (B=Corfu, *west*).

The identification with Ischia is the kernel of the book. The *Telemachy* is considered as a prelude to the Phaeacian "episode"—one of its main purposes is "une déclaration solennelle de vendetta" (p. 8). . . . "Héroïquement déclarée par un adolescent, la vendetta est héroïquement accomplie par un homme seul" (p. 10). On pp. 136-38 sixteen reasons (reducible to six) are given for Scheria=Ischia.

The events recorded in the *Odyssey* are referred to the twelfth century. The middle of the ninth century is indicated for (the) Homer (of the *Odyssey*), an Ionian of Asia Minor who visited the Mare Tyrrhenum.

Few readers will be convinced by either the method or the matter of the book, but there is much that is suggestive. We may at least be grateful for the author's (self-destructive) demonstration (cf. p. 547) of "le sans-gêne" of some traditional identifications—Scheria=Corfu amongst them. We may even awaken in less fretful humor from our miraculous sleep in the ship of Alcinoos to meet Dr. Dörpfeld at Leucas-Ithaca.

FRANCIS G. ALLINSON

BROWN UNIVERSITY

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*T. Macci Plauti Mostellaria*. Edited with notes Explanatory and Critical, by EDWARD A. SONNENSCHNEIN. Second edition. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1907. Pp. xxii+176. \$1.10.

This book has profited much by the twenty-two years that have elapsed between the first and second editions. The text has been thoroughly revised, the Introduction, aside from the metrical part, enlarged and partly rewritten, and the notes rearranged and greatly expanded. In this new form the volume should prove an even more useful edition than before.

The text, despite the introduction of some thirty new conjectures by the editor, is on the whole more conservative than before, having in many places, especially where the tradition rests upon the Palatine MSS alone, gone back to the formerly rejected manuscript reading. Its adherence to the tradition is not slavish, however, as the number of emendations recorded in the critical notes abundantly proves.

The explanatory notes, as well as the critical, now follow the text, instead of standing beneath it as in the former edition. The added matter consists largely of additional illustrative material in both Latin and English, together with much new and illuminating grammatical and exegetical comment. The

critical commentary, besides discussing passages concerning which modern editors still differ as to the true reading, contains rather frequent notes on the meter and scansion of different lines.

These metrical notes are all that is left to represent the section on "Metres" in the Introduction to the first edition. This is unfortunate. One cannot, in this country at least, "assume a knowledge of the ordinary phenomena of Plautine prosody" on the part of numerous students with whom one might wish to read the *Mostellaria*. Even the editor who has "deliberately avoided the discussion of vexed questions on which Plautine scholars are divided in opinion" might well have felt bound to give at least a brief introduction to the prosody and commoner meters of his author.

The book is well printed and attractively bound. The text is interleaved with paper of a good quality.

CHARLES N. COLE

OBERLIN COLLEGE

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*Précis de phonétique historique du Latin.* Par MAX NIEDERMANN.

Avec un avant-propos par A. Meillet. Paris: Klincksieck, 1906.

Pp. xii + 151. Fr. 2.50.

The conditions which this excellent little work aims to alleviate are so forcibly stated in the preface by Professor Meillet, Bréal's successor in the Collège de France, that I cannot refrain from quoting the substance of his remarks. "Comparative Grammar, which has revolutionized all our ideas of language, has not, so to speak, penetrated into the academic teaching of the ancient languages, and has scarcely modified the doctrines of the grammars which are in the hands of students. Nowhere, certainly is the divorce more complete between the scientific doctrines long since established and the customary instruction. It is this without doubt which contributes most to render the grammatical instruction ordinarily given barren and tiresome; separated from all modern ideas, remaining scholastic in form and substance, it has become a dead element; it limits itself to facts which are brought into no relation, or only under conceptions which are antiquated and contrary to everything that the pupils learn elsewhere. Thus sentiment becomes every day more hostile to the study of grammar, and every year the hours devoted to a branch of instruction of which everyone feels vaguely the unfruitfulness are reduced. It seems, however, that a science whose object is to study the principal means of expression of human thought merits the attention of students, and is capable, if properly taught, of exciting a lively interest."

The conditions here described are by no means peculiar to France, nor have efforts to meet them been lacking elsewhere, as the author observes p. vi, where he calls attention to some of the most recent attempts in English (the Hale-Buck *Latin Grammar*), German, and Swedish, to present the results of scientific grammar in elementary form.

The author, a young Swiss scholar, who has proved his competence as an